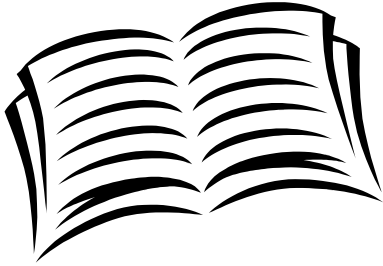


PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR TOMALES BAY STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN



California State Parks has provided opportunities for your involvement in park planning in order to receive and consider your ideas about the park and environmental issues related to the park's planning proposals. Throughout this planning process information has been available to you through newsletters, workshops, and on the California State Parks web site.

The main objectives of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are to disclose to decision makers and the public the significant environmental effects of proposed activities and to require agencies to avoid or reduce the environmental effects by implementing feasible alternatives or mitigation measures. Other objectives of CEQA focus on public disclosure regarding the reasons for agency approval of projects with significant environmental effects, interagency coordination in the review of projects, and enhancement of public participation in the planning process.

Public involvement is an essential and required feature of the CEQA. The environmental review process provides many opportunities for the public to participate through early project scoping meetings, public notice and public review of CEQA documents, public hearings, and by requiring agencies to respond to public comments in Final EIRs.

We are now providing an opportunity for you to review and comment on our Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) document for Tomales Bay State Park.

GENERAL TIPS FOR COMMENTING

To effectively participate in the CEQA review process, members of the public as well as interested organizations and agencies should provide detailed and focused comments.



Although a member of the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed project, when reviewing Draft EIRs, the primary focus should be on **how well the document identifies environmental impacts from planning proposals and how well the document identifies methods to avoid or mitigate those impacts.**

Your comments will be most helpful if you **describe additional possible impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the potential significant environmental effects of the proposals.**

Please **explain the basis for your comments and support them with substantial evidence such as data, references, expert opinion, or other facts.**

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR PUBLIC AGENCY COMMENTS

A public agency is **limited to submitting comments on only those aspects of a project which are within its area of expertise or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency.** Agency comments must be supported by substantial evidence. If mitigation measures are submitted, the commenting agency must either present to the lead agency (State Parks) complete and detailed performance objectives for the mitigation measures, or must refer the lead agency to appropriate, readily available guidelines or reference documents which meet the same purpose.

All Commenters should also be aware that the adequacy of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonable. CEQA does not require a lead agency (State Parks) to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters. In addition, all commenters should include with their comments the name of a contact person who would be available for later consultation if necessary.

WHAT'S NEXT



California State Parks' responses to the public comments received during this CEQA public review period on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR will be provided in a "Final EIR-Response to Comments" document. This document will be available for public review prior to the Park and Recreation Commission Hearing, tentatively scheduled for Spring/Summer 2004, where the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR will be considered for approval. Notices indicating locations where this document will be available for review will be posted on the park web site (www.parks.ca.gov) and sent to persons, agencies, and organizations on our mailing list.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**on the Tomales Bay State Park
Preliminary General Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Where: **Dance Palace** (Old Church), 503 B St. (corner of 5th & B) Point Reyes Station

When: **Tuesday, February 24**

6:00 to 7:00 pm: *Review maps and informal discussions with the planning team*

7:00 to 8:00 pm: *Overview presentation of plan's proposals and public questions*

